



EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

 Application number: **87200524.4**

 Int. Cl.⁴: **C 13 K 5/00**
A 61 K 9/20

 Date of filing: **20.03.87**

 Priority: **21.03.86 NL 8600731**

 Date of publication of application:
30.09.87 Bulletin 87/40

 Designated Contracting States:
BE CH DE FR GB IT LI LU NL SE

 Date of deferred publication of search report:
06.04.88 Bulletin 88/14

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 **Improved spray dried lactose and process for preparing the same.**

 The invention relates to a spray dried lactose suitable for use as component of tablets and to a process for preparing same. The lactose is predominantly crystalline and contains at most 50% by weight of amorphous lactose. At least 50% by weight of the crystalline lactose consists of particles below 50 µm. The preparation process comprises a step of suspending crystalline alpha-lactose hydrate at 0-90°C in a saturated lactose solution, and a spray drying step. The temperature of the suspension is kept substantially constant until the time of spraydrying in order to minimize crystallization and dissolution events.



EP 87 20 0524

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
Y	US-A-2 856 318 (D.D. PEEBLES) * Column 1, lines 55-72; claims * ---	1-6	C 13 K 5/00 A 61 K 9/20
Y	US-A-3 802 914 (R.L. NEZBED) * Column 3, lines 40-60 * ---	1-6	
Y	JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, vol. 60, no. 9, September 1971, pages 1428,1429; J.T. FELL et al.: "Assessment of compression characteristics of powders" * Page 1429, table I * ---	1-6	
D,A	US-A-3 639 170 (J.T. HUTTON) ---		
A	GB-A- 740 255 (N.V. LIJEMPF) ---		
A	J. PHARM. PHARMAC., LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, vol. 22, 1970, pages 247,248; J.T. FELL et al.: "The prediction of the tensile strength of tablets" ---		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
A	CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 74, no. 6, 8th February 1971, page 151, abstract no. 24975a, Columbus, Ohio, US; O. ALPAR et al.: "Compression properties of lactose", & J. PHARM., PHARMACOL. 1970,22(Suppl.),1S-7S ----		C 13 K A 61 K
A	PHARMACEUTICA ACTA HELVETIAE, vol. 45, 1970, pages 520-522; J.T. FELL et al.: "The characterisation of the form of lactose in spray dried lactose" -----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 21-12-1987	Examiner LENSEN H.W.M.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	